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JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION SINCE 1877

Youth Night slated for July 25

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Folks will get turned around – literally – when they attend 2014 Mississippi Baptist Youth Night on the evening of July 25 at Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson, but it's a good thing.

"We have traditionally used the Coliseum's north entrances for Youth Night, but due to ongoing renovations on the north side of the Coliseum we will be utilizing the south entrances for access," reported Don Lum, evangelism director for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board which is sponsoring the annual event through gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program.

"Mississippi Baptist young people are some of the smartest people around, so I am confident everyone will figure out how to get to the other side of the Coliseum. If not, there will be plenty of volunteers

BUSH

ALBRITTON



in the parking areas to help," Lum said.

Attendees should take the High Street exit from Interstate 55 North, as always, and head west toward downtown Jackson. That hasn't changed. The Coliseum main entrance is a short distance down High Street, on the left.

Keynote speaker for the event – the largest annual gathering of Mississippi Bap-

tists in the state – is Bryant Bush, an evangelist and artist from Atlanta. "Mississippi Baptists are very familiar with Bryant," Lum said. "He has spoken at Super Summer, the Youth Evangelism Challenge, Disciple Now events, and in a number of churches through the years."

Worship leaders are The Gathering with the Chris Albritton Band from Temple

Church in Ruston, La. "This is really an extraordinary group of talented musicians, and I know they will add immensely to the worship experience of the evening," Lum said.

"There's going to be plenty of room for everyone. There are no admission fees, tickets, or registration. I want to

see YOUTH on p. 8

Religious freedom at stake in Senate

WASHINGTON (BP and local reports) – The U.S. Senate's strong support for legislation to curtail the conscience rights of business owners has left religious liberty advocates disturbed at the narrow victory for the cherished freedom.

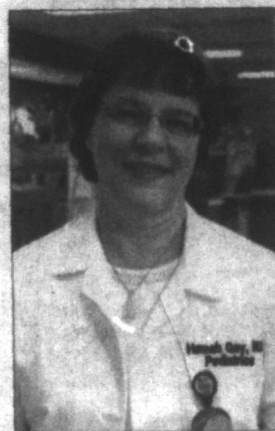
Senators on July 16 voted 56-43 to bring to the floor for consideration a bill that would effectively reverse the U.S. Supreme Court's opinion in the Hobby Lobby case upholding the religious freedom of for-profit employers.

The attempt to invoke cloture, as it is known, fell only four votes short of the super majority 60 votes needed to end a filibuster against the bill and begin the process that would have led to almost assured passage in the Democrat-controlled upper chamber of Congress.

Religious freedom defenders were stunned that a majority of senators would vote for the proposal, signaling the strength of the threat to religious freedom.

see SENATE on p. 7

Difficulty doesn't douse doc's determination



GAY

JACKSON, Miss. (BP and local reports) – God is in the details of the change in HIV status of a baby once thought cured of the virus, pediatric HIV specialist Hannah Gay said after the virus began replicating anew in the child under her care at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson.

"I have learned that often the hand of God is evident in the details and even in this relapse it has been no different," the Mississippi Baptist told Baptist Press July 14 after tests revealed the virus was again growing in the child, breaking a remission of more than two years.

"For confidentiality reasons I cannot share any of those

details publicly but there are many and they have helped to not just reaffirm my faith in God, but to actually strengthen it," Gay said.

Gay administered a groundbreaking, aggressive antiviral drug trio to the child within 30 hours of its birth four years ago to an HIV-positive mother, and had always given God credit for the treatment's success.

While scientists speculated the child was cured and continued monitoring her status, Gay never assumed the child's status would remain the same.

"If I ever said that I believed that God had healed this child for all time, I misspoke, because I certainly do not have the wisdom to say what God

has in His plan," said the former International Mission Board worker. "My intent was to communicate that I had not created or discovered something magical, but that it was the work of God."

The international scientific community took notice in March 2013, when Gay announced the virus was no longer replicating in the baby who had received no antiviral treatment for 10 months. The mother had failed to bring the baby to appointments at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, where Gay is professor of pediatric infectious diseases.

Gay continues to monitor

see DOCTOR on p. 8

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From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

A distant mirror

Another month, another Atlantic City, N.J., casino closes. That's becoming rather routine, but this time it's a big one.

Billionaire and serial husband Donald Trump's company, Trump Entertainment Resorts, announced July 14 that the ornate Trump Plaza casino/hotel/entertainment complex along the Boardwalk in Atlantic City, billed as "a first-class experience," will shut down for good in September. The casino, even with its hotels, restaurants, and other amenities, has turned into a perennial money loser that even someone with deep pockets like Trump could not continue to carry on his books.

It will be the fourth Atlantic City casino operation to fold, just this year. Mark Berman of The Washington Post newspaper reported on July 14 that at least two other major Atlantic City resorts, including the \$2.4 billion Revel, are on life support and not expected to survive much longer.

Combined with Trump Plaza's employees, this means that more than 6,150 people — or nearly a fifth of the people employed by Atlantic City's casino hotels — could be out of work in a matter of months," the Post reported. The article also pointed out that Atlantic City's casino revenue has fallen by nearly 50% since 2006, according to a report issued earlier this year by the Center for Gaming Research at the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

Berman in his article lays most of the blame for Atlantic City's gambling collapse on increased competition from other locales, but there's certainly more at play there than a few new casinos in neighboring Pennsylvania.

Atlantic City, and by extension the people of New Jersey, went all in for casinos and the riches those operations were predicted to bring. The money did indeed roll in, for a while. Enthralled as the piles of cash reached higher and higher into the sky, the city and state went deeper and deeper into gambling.

More and bigger casino complexes were built. Trump Plaza set aside space for 85 "high roller" suites, where big spenders could enjoy privacy and luxury beyond description. Buffets and

eateries were installed that would have embarrassed the most gluttonous Roman emperor. Entertainment spectacles sought to rival Disney World.

All of that and more had to be done to keep drawing people as attendance dwindled. Local people caught on to the folly of gambling, and tourists eventually found attractions that offered more bang for their bucks. Faster than anyone expected, Atlantic City became seedy. Once a death spiral begins, it's very difficult to halt. It just keeps getting worse, and ever more desperate measures must be taken in an attempt to maintain the artifice.

It won't be too long now before the string runs out for Atlantic City. There's still money to be sucked out of the city and state, so Big Gambling will stick around long enough to get what little is left. Then Atlantic City will be left with billion-dollar pigeon roosts.

Next up: Mississippi. The process has already begun and, like Atlantic City, is going to be hard to stop. For example, Tunica County's largest casino, Harrah's, closed for good on June 2 and threw 1,300 people out of work. It's common knowledge that several other Tunica casinos are financially troubled and may close or consolidate.

Margaritaville Casino in Biloxi announced July 21 that it could be closing in as little as two weeks, barely two years after opening. In a rare public indication of the financial house of cards under which casinos operate, Margaritaville was in such bad shape less than a year after opening that the casino was fined \$10,000 by the state for failing to have enough cash on hand to pay winners.

Yet, a festive ground breaking ceremony was held July 15 for the Coast's newest casino complex, the Scarlet Pearl, approved by the Mississippi Gaming Commission and welcomed by both local officials and the people of the Mississippi Gulf Coast, even as we slump rapidly toward the fate of Atlantic City.

The old saying is true. It is the very model of insanity to commit the same failures over and over, while always expecting a different result. We're there.

Sweet hour of prayer

While ministering as a missionary in Argentina, I had the privilege of facilitating prayer vigils in the province of Buenos Aires. These prayer vigils would sometimes last all night, but it's not necessary to pray all night to have a powerful prayer vigil. You can start with a one- or two-hour vigil in your Bible study, church, or even better, in union with another local church.

Like no other book in the Bible, Acts provides a dynamic picture of what God can accomplish through His praying church. In chapter two, the church waited on God for power. In chapter four, the church prayed for boldness to proclaim the Gospel in the face of mounting political and religious opposition.

Acts 12 shows the church in constant prayer for the wellbeing of Peter, their imprisoned leader. Chapter 13 reveals united prayer as the God-ordained context for launching new ministry initiatives.

Are any of these first century prayer concerns relevant to the church today? Does the 21st century church need heaven-sent power? Does the church need boldness to remain true to its calling against contrary social and political currents?

Are church and denominational leaders in need of prayer? What about wisdom to undertake new ministry ventures; is there an urgent need to hear from God in that area?

The answers to these questions are obvious. The challenges that drove the church to its knees in prayer more than 2000 years ago have not gone away; if anything, they have become more urgent.

God marvelously answered the cries of His people in each of these prayer meetings in Acts. Three thousand people came to Christ and were baptized as a result of God's promised gift of power sent on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:41). Those who fearfully prayed for God's intervention in the face of a political crackdown were "filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak God's message with boldness" (Acts 4:31).

As the church prayed, God sent an angel to miraculously deliver Peter from prison just hours before the apostle's planned execution (Acts 12:5-15). In another prayer meeting, Paul and Barnabas were "sent out by the Holy Spirit" (Acts 13:2-4) on a missionary trip that changed the world.

The following is a sample one-hour prayer vigil program based on these four



Guest opinion

with Ralph Tone

prayer meetings in Acts. If you can pray longer than an hour, this outline can be modified to fit two hours of prayer by making each segment 20 minutes instead of 10 minutes. The focus of this particular prayer vigil is the health of the church, the bride of Christ.

- 7 p.m.: Praise and worship.
- 7:10 p.m.: Prayer for God to empower His church for revival (Acts 2).
- 7:20 p.m.: Prayer in the face of political, religious and other threats to the church (Acts 4).
- 7:30 p.m.: Prayer for the leadership of the church (Acts 12).
- 7:40 p.m.: Prayer for release of God-ordained ministries in the church (Acts 13).
- 7:50 p.m. – 8 p.m.: Praise, thanksgiving, testimonies, and benediction.

A final logistical word about this sample prayer program: You'll notice there is no message or devotional. One of the great hindrances to prayer is the propensity to talk about prayer without actually praying.

Neither is there a coffee break, intermission, or any other break that would distract from the main task of prayer. A 15-minute break often turns to 25 minutes, making it very difficult to regain a focused attitude of prayer.

If your heart is stirred to prayer by this sample prayer program, call one or two other likeminded believers and set a time and place to lift your voices to heaven. It will be an hour well spent. In fact, it may be an hour that changes your heart forever.

Tone is a Phoenix-based church partner for LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville, and blogs at RalphTone.com. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.

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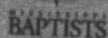
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Future direction of Christian publishing debated

NASHVILLE (BP) — Two recent Christian books arguing that not all homosexual acts are sinful have left industry observers wondering whether evangelical publishers, especially those owned by secular corporations, will continue to produce material considered outside the bounds of traditional orthodoxy.

"Publishing houses are going to have to wrestle with what their starting point is," observed Selma Wilson, vice president of the B&H Publishing Group at LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville, during a Baptist Press (BP) interview.

"If your starting point is to make money or your starting point is to be a New York Times bestseller, you're going to do different things" than publishers focused on faithfulness to Christ, she said.

Homosexual issues

The WaterBrook Multnomah Publishing Group's sister imprint, Convergent Books, in April released *Matthew Vines' God and the Gay Christian*, a book arguing that the Bible permits monogamous same sex relationships. In October, Howard Books is scheduled to release Christian singer Jennifer Knapp's book, *Facing the Music*, a memoir recounting among other things her coming out as a lesbian.

WaterBrook Multnomah and Howard are among the Christian publishing houses owned by secular companies, with WaterBrook Multnomah falling under the Penguin Random House umbrella and Howard under Simon and Schuster. Both the Thomas Nelson Publishing Group and Zondervan are owned by HarperCollins Publishers.

Among the independent Christian publishers are B&H, Moody Publishers, Tyndale House Publishers, Harvest House Publishers, and the Baker Publishing Group.

In response to Vines' *God and the Gay Christian*, the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB), an association for Christian broadcasters and communicators, confronted WaterBrook Multnomah, resulting in the publisher's resignation from NRB membership.

NRB President Jerry Johnson said it made little difference that the book was published under the Convergent label because "this issue comes down to NRB members producing unbiblical material, regardless of the label under which they do it."

Varying interpretation

Mark Kuyper, president of the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association (ECPA), told BP that ECPA will not take action against WaterBrook Multnomah because the Convergent imprint is not an ECPA member and therefore not subject to the organization's guidelines.

He added that he considers arguments for homosexuality a matter of varying biblical interpretation rather than a departure from orthodoxy that should provoke ECPA action.

Kuyper also said Christian books representing non-traditional theological positions likely will increase as the culture explores those positions.

ECPA is a trade organization for groups that publish various types of

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Crossroads Center
16128 Crossroads Parkway, 39503
(228) 539-4263

Hattiesburg
Turtle Creek Crossing
24 Turtle Creek Parkway, 39402
(601) 264-2584

Jackson
County Line Plaza
1007 E. County Line Rd., 39211
(601) 952-1934

Meridian
133 South Frontage Rd. 39301
(601) 482-0242

Southaven
Southaven Towne Center
6589 Towne Ctr. Crossing, 38671
(662) 536-1042

Tupelo
3851 North Gloster Street, 38804
(662) 844-2201



GETTING READY — Mike Jolly (left), manager of the LifeWay Bookstore on County Line Road in Jackson, and store employee Brenda Savage restock the Best Seller shelf July 21 after a busy weekend of book sales. The store is one of six Mississippi locations owned and operated by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville. The other locations are Gulfport, Hattiesburg, Meridian, Southaven, and Tupelo. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Christian content. All member organizations agree to only publish materials that align with the ECPA statement of faith, which expresses belief in the inspiration of Scripture, the Trinity, and the bodily resurrection of Christ among other doctrines.

"The publishing community is responding to what's going on in the culture," Kuyper said. "As we address some of these topics that we had not been pressed to address before, you are probably going to see authors and publishers bring those ideas to light. How the Christian community will respond will vary greatly."

One goal of Christian publishing is to create a "marketplace of ideas," Kuyper said, and Christian publishers do not expect every book to be profitable though publishers must make a profit to stay in business. The decision to publish books that depart from the ethical or theological mainstream, he said, generally stems from the publisher's desire to advance conversation more than the demands of the market.

"When you're talking about a book that is focused on homosexuality and Christianity, it's not the same as a Duck Dynasty book," Kuyper said. "There's a much broader audience for the Duck Dynasty book than for that kind of a book."

Controversial books "are primarily driven by wanting to be a part of the conversation," he said.

Reflecting culture

David Shepherd, a literary agent and former vice president of a Christian publishing house, told BP that departing from orthodoxy is not yet a broad trend among Christian publishers.

In the future, however, Christian publishers owned by secular corporations may be more likely to publish questionable material than houses that are closely held by evangelical owners, he predicted.

"As the church more and more reflects the culture... I think some Christian publishers will begin to also reflect

that," Shepherd said. "The most recent indication of that perhaps is the WaterBrook book, but I don't know that there will be a huge wave of Christian publishers doing that kind of thing."

Widespread publication of unorthodox material would represent a departure from the heritage of Christian publishing, Shepherd said. Although there have always been some authors "on the edge of orthodoxy," Christian publishers generally "are aware of who their audience is and have editorial guidelines that will more often than not keep them in the orthodox fold," he said.

Theologically liberal authors have tended to publish with academic houses that have reputations for airing progressive views or with religious publishers without evangelical faith statements, Shepherd said.

That trend appears to be holding, by and large. For instance, Methodist megachurch pastor Adam Hamilton's recent book, *Making Sense of the Bible*, which argues that mass killings reported in the Old Testament are inconsistent with God's character and suggests that biblical condemnations of homosexuality do not apply to monogamous same-sex relationships, was published by HarperOne rather than one of HarperCollins' Christian imprints.

Emerging church leader Rob Bell also has published recent books with HarperOne.

Still, Christian publishers want to produce material that Christian bookstores will buy, Shepherd said. The demand for biblically faithful materials is likely to keep much Christian book publishing within the bounds of orthodoxy, he said.

"Generally speaking, I think publishers are going to be sensitive to delivering products to bookstores that bookstores will trust to put on their shelves for their readers," Shepherd said.

Shared values

Wilson said Christian authors, like consumers, likely will partner with com-

panies that align with their values. There is no trend yet of conservative authors leaving publishers who produce unorthodox books, she added.

Wilson pointed out that publishers like B&H, whose editorial guidelines demand that all books reflect evangelical theology, will be faithful to Christ regardless of what book buyers want.

"Our starting point is not to give to the market what the market wants," Wilson said. "We're a confessional publisher. There are things we believe and believe very strongly. It's all centered on the Gospel, so for me, being an evangelical Christian publisher means that you start with Christ and you end with Christ."

Meeting all the market's demands "doesn't give life to anyone," Wilson said. "In fact, it brings death. It's going to destroy lives and destroy families, and that's why we're so committed to being the best in our space, because we know what gives life."

Challenges

Michael Hyatt, former CEO of Thomas Nelson and a popular blogger about the publishing industry, declined BP's request for an interview. In a 2013 interview with *Leadership Journal*, he said Christian publishers "face challenges" in the years to come.

Publishers "are going to have to get very clear on the value they bring to authors, especially as compared to the plethora of self-publishing options available today," Hyatt said. "Beyond that, the biggest challenge will be to find the capital to invest in growth."

"Overall, their business is stagnant. Their owners (mostly secular) are loathe [sic] to make additional investments in an industry segment where there is so little upside potential. Unless they can attract capital, they will have to get by with smaller royalty advances, fewer marketing dollars and less expensive staff. I expect increased consolidation in this part of the industry."

I was visiting with one of our Baptist men before preaching in his church on a Sunday morning. After we had talked for a while, he said, "Have you ever noticed that so many things in our homes these days have a light?" I kind of nodded in agreement and said, "Well, yeah." He said, "Well, like your VCR has a light on it. Our television has a light on it... telephones, fire alarms, clocks." As he mentally walked me through his house, indeed a light began to come on in my feeble brain. Yes, there are a lot of things in our houses that have a light indicator, but then he made his most important point as he said, "Every one of us is supposed to have a light. In fact, we are to be a light shining for Jesus." How true that is. The fact is that when He was here on earth with men, Jesus said, speaking of Himself, "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12). Later He would tell those who followed Him, "Ye are the light" (Matt. 5:14). It is from that truth that the precious little song we used to sing comes, "This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine."

Every light can make a difference. It doesn't have to be big and bold and bodacious like the sun. Every light can give direction and most of them can cast light on our pathway. Have you seen that ad that runs sometime on TV these days that tells the incredible power of the human eye? A candle can actually be seen from 10 miles away. That is astounding. If that be true, it is absolutely true that your light can be seen more clearly and much, much farther than you can even



This Little Light of Mine

imagine. You probably think that just a handful of people even notice you being on planet Earth. Wrong. If you are walking with the Lord of Light, He is shining in you and through you and there are people outside of what you would consider your own little world who are seeing and taking notice and being blessed by the light that emanates from you.

In addition to just shining in the darkness, a light gives direction. I do not know all the constellations in the sky but on a good dark night when the moon is not visible and everything seems to be touched by darkness, I can generally find the Big Dipper. Those stars that make up the Big Dipper are light-years away from us, but I can find it. If I can find it, I can tell what direction I'm going and sometimes it means I need to change direction. Jesus points out to us one of the dilemmas of our individual light. He says,

"Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house" (Matt. 5:15). Jesus knew the hearts of people all too well. There are those moments that we would rather hide our lights and quietly not be seen because there may be many people in the darkness who would confront or confound or confuse us. Maybe it's better just to hide in our day when social media as well as the media at large can zero in on a person and try to make them look ignorant or radical or out of touch with society and hold them up to scrutiny and scorn. Many choose to be quiet and hidden.

It doesn't matter where you fit into the strata of life there are people who will attack the light that may be shining in you. You could be a politician or a preacher, a football player or a character in a duck reality show. You

can be a beauty queen or the owners of a chicken restaurant, and this world will get out the fire extinguishers and quench your light if you are not careful. For most of us who are not living in the media's glare, the same thing happens in small little social gatherings or community events or school activities where some people do not believe that the Lord or the faith directives in our lives are supposed to have any kind of input whatsoever. So we tend to allow them to hide our light and quietly crawl into the corner and pull the bushel over us.

Franklin Graham was being interviewed about his position on traditional marriage. He said that marriage was a relationship between a man and a woman for a lifetime. As the interviewer quizzed him, they wanted to see if there was some time or place or way that he would be open to accepting a new view and change his old traditional view. Franklin Graham's response was that in order for him to change, God would have to change. The view of marriage from a biblical standpoint is not his view, it is God's view. For He is the one who made them male and female and it was God who brought that relationship to be. Graham was not being pompous, or religiously arrogant, but simply stating the case that life as God designed it at the outset was to bless a man and a woman and provide for offspring for the future of mankind. That remains true today and on that issue or any other that God has spoken to us about, we need not let our lights be extinguished.

The author can be contacted at directions@mbcb.org.

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

July 24, 2014

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

Pray this day for...

July 25 – August 7, 2014

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people." – Ephesians 6:18

Pray for: **Robert & Janice Mooney**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through strategy coordination, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Stephen & Svetlana Parish**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through strategy coordination, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Kevin & Brenda Peacock**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through theological education, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **John & Sarah Perkins**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through mission support, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Michael & Sarah Prewitt**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church planting, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Bob & Amy Little**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples.

Pray for: **Asbury & Jeannie Martin**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Linda & Mike Ray**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through strategy coordination, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Nickolee & Steven Roberts**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church planting and church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Marty & Suzanne Roberts**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples.

Pray for: **Ruth & Steven Robertson**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through financial administration, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Bethany Sharp**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through community outreach/evangelism.

Pray for: **John & Amy Purl**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through volunteer coordination, community outreach.

Pray for: **Eugenia & Tracy Putnam**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church planting.

The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.

I WILL GIVE YOU A NEW HEART

EZEKIEL 11:19

Margaret Lackey
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For more information contact the Stewardship/CP Promotion Dept. of the MBCB at 800-748-1651, ext. 347.

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Grand Total	16,146,575.45	15,320,538.73	26,577,666.18
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Refugee numbers grow as Ukrainians flee war zone

KHARKOV, Ukraine (BP) — Displaced people from the conflict regions of southeastern Ukraine are moving north into the Kharkov area in search of safety, according to reports received by Baptist Global Response (BGR).

One small church in a border city is seeing 30-40 people each day coming through their door for food, rest, and help as they head to other areas of the country in search of peace and safety, a BGR humanitarian partner in the country reported. His name is being withheld for security reasons.

Churches in the city of Kharkov

are providing shelter not only in their church buildings. Many believers have opened their homes to displaced families. The stream of people could increase significantly if the July 17 downing of a Malaysian Airlines passenger jet 180 miles south of Kharkov intensifies fighting in the conflict zone.

Churches in this region are uniting their efforts to try to help meet needs, but many of those churches exhausted their limited financial resources in the first month of the relief efforts, the BGR partner said.

No one knows how long the

crisis might last, and churches may need to assist some displaced families until the conflict ends or those families are able to move on.

The needs could be magnified if the crisis extends into winter. Most of the displaced people left their homes with only the clothes on their backs, the partner said.

BGR and its humanitarian partners in the region are coming alongside those churches to provide resources. Using \$1,000 from Global Hunger Relief and \$4,000 in Southern Baptist general relief funds, BGR is pro-

viding food, baby products, toiletries, bedding, cots/beds, and in some cases refrigerators since some churches have no way to keep food cold.

In the initial stages of the relief effort, BGR will work with a group organized from local churches to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of displaced families as they come to churches for assistance, the BGR partner in Ukraine said.

Workers also will seek to identify other resources available from the government or local community.

The BGR partner asks people to pray: "Intercede for those who are trying to find safe passage from areas of conflict to other regions of the country, for the love of Christ to compel believers throughout the Kharkov region to give sacrificially to provide for those fleeing their homes."

"Pray for the Lord's provision to meet the needs of those who have left their homes and jobs to protect their families. Pray for hearts to be drawn into a personal relationship with Jesus as his love is displayed through his people in the Kharkov region."

MS POSITIONS

LEBANON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, HATTIESBURG, MS, IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR A FULL-TIME ASSOCIATIONAL MISSION STRATEGIST. Strategist will lead the Association in missions, ministry, and partnerships with local pastors to serve in the ministry. Submit resumes to David McMillen at dmcml1en1@juno.com before Monday, August 11, 2014.

FBC OF MAGNOLIA IS SEEKING A BIVOCATIONAL MUSIC MINISTER. Submit resumes to FBC Magnolia 126 South Clark, Magnolia, MS 39652.

TWO SMALL CENTRAL MISSISSIPPI CHURCHES LOOKING FOR A PASTOR TO SERVE BOTH CHURCHES. Two Sunday morning services & one Wednesday night service per week. Please send resume to P.O. Box 206, Goodman, MS 39079 or email resume to msposco@gmail.com.

MEADOWVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH, STARKVILLE, MS, IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A FULL-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC AND EDUCATION. Please mail resumes to Meadowview Baptist Church, Attn: Music Search Committee, 300 Linden Circle, Starkville, MS 39759.

HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH, QUITMAN, MS IS SEEKING A PASTOR. Send resumes to Harmony Baptist Church, c/o Pastor Search Committee, 5357 Highway 18 West, Quitman, MS 39355.

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH IN ECRU, MS IS PRAYING FOR A BIVOCATIONAL WORSHIP PASTOR. If interested, send resume to 85 Friendship Road, Ecrum, MS 38841, or email to Jonathan.baker@fbecru.com.

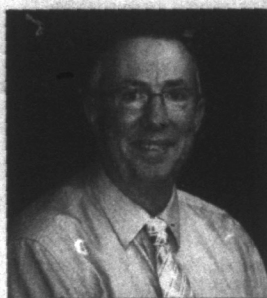
ENON BAPTIST CHURCH IN GRENADA, MS IS SEEKING A PART-TIME MUSIC DIRECTOR. If interested please submit a resume to Music Search Committee, 2604 Carrollton Road, Grenada, MS 38901 or by e-mail to enonbaptistchurch@outlook.com.

OAK GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH IN MERIDIAN, MS IS LOOKING FOR A PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER. Please send resume to: Oak Grove Baptist Church, Attn: Personnel Committee, 801 Oak Grove Drive, Meridian, MS 39301.

OAK GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH IN MERIDIAN, MS IS LOOKING FOR A PART-TIME SECRETARY FOR 2 DAYS A WEEK (16 HOURS TOTAL). Must have computer skills and some bookkeeping. Please send resume to: Oak Grove Baptist Church, Attn: Myrna Qualls, 801 Oak Grove Drive, Meridian, MS 39301.

MAIN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH, MENDENHALL, MS IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A PASTOR. Please mail resumes to Robert Mangum, Attn: Pastor Search Committee, 115 Pinehill Circle, Mendenhall, MS 39114.

Staff Changes



NEWTON COUNTY ASSOCIATION has called Robert Rowzee as Church Strengthening Representative. He is a graduate of Newton High School, Mississippi State University, and New Orleans Seminary. He pastored New Fellowship Church, Hickory, served as interim at Chunky Church, Chunky, and most recently Grace United Church in Decatur. He and his wife Vonda have one daughter, Casey.



BIGBEE CHURCH, MONROE ASSOCIATION has called Justin Haynes as pastor. He is shown with his wife Courtney, daughter Abby, and son Cooper.

CLASSIFIEDS

FIRST BAPTIST, MOUNTAIN HOME, ARKANSAS IS NOW ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR TWO FULL-TIME POSITIONS: Young Families Pastor and Pastor to Senior Adults. Please email resume's to dalesykes@sut-denlinkmail.com

FOR SALE: 1978 STEINWAY MEDIUM GRAND PIANO, WALNUT. Like new condition, professionally tuned. \$18,000, contact Gordon 601-319-1547

GOLDEN ACRES BAPTIST CHURCH IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A FULL-TIME MINISTER OF STUDENTS (GRADES 9-COLLEGE). Resumes may be sent to: 3405 South Railroad St., Phenix City, AL 36867. Attn: Gina Harper or emailed to: gabogina@att.net.

AFFORDABLE BEACHSIDE VACATION CONDOS: GULF SHORES & ORANGE BEACH, AL. Rent direct from Christian Family Owners. Lowest Prices on the Beach. www.gulfshorescondos.com. 205-556-0368, 205-752-1231, 251-752-2366.

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WHITTENTOWN CHURCH, RIPLEY, has called Chris Autry as pastor. He is shown with his wife, Elizabeth.

YOUTH

cont. from p. 1

encourage everyone who can to attend, and to invite as many unchurched friends as they can for the Gospel experience," Lum said. Adult volunteers will be available to talk with students, he added.

Doors on the south side of the Coliseum will open at 5:30 p.m. Concessions will be available until the program begins at 6:30 p.m.

A mission offering will be taken. Because all expenses of Youth Night are covered by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program, 100% of the mission offering will be available to Mississippi Baptist churches to help fund youth mission projects.

For more information on Youth Night or the mission offering, contact Lum at (601) 292-3278 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 278. E-mail: dlum@mbcb.org.

DOCTOR

cont. from p. 1

the child and periodically sends samples of the child's blood to the labs of colleagues for ultra-sensitive tests.

The child's latest blood tests revealed detectable levels of HIV, reversing the child's remission status of more than two years, Gay and researchers reported July 10 to the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases of the National Institutes of Health.

"The case of the Mississippi Baby has added some huge pieces to that puzzle and likely will continue to add more in the future. I could have wished that this would be the last piece of the puzzle, at least for newborns," she said, "but I am content in knowing that the pieces are steadily coming together and the picture will eventually become clear."

Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically

via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted. Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, buildings, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

Revivals & Homecomings

► **Old Hebron Church, New Hebron:** Revival, July 27 - 30; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by covered dish meal and 1 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 6 p.m. fellowship meals and worship @ 7; Sonny Adkins and Rick Holyfield, revival team.

► **New Salem Church, West:** Homecoming and revival, July 27 - 30; Sun., Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Tony Fortenberry, pastor and speaker; Howard Family, music; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Caleb Clark, speaker; Benny Rigby, music.

► **Calvary Church, Greenwood:** Homecoming, July 27; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by potluck dinner on the grounds; David Michel, speaker.

► **Handsboro Church, Gulfport:** 140th anniversary, July 27; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by homecoming meal; Richard Bradley, speaker; Louis White, Pete & Donna Snell, music; B.J. Bennett, pastor.

► **New Henleyfield Church, Carriere:** Homecoming, July 27; time of remembrance, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; R.T. Buckley, speaker.

► **Silver Creek Church, McComb:** Revival, July 27 - 30; services, 10:45 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds and 1:15;

Mon. - Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Wed., youth night with pizza blast, 5:30 p.m.; Gary Bowlin, speaker; Donnie Copeland, music.

► **Calvary Church, Carroll County:** Revival, July 27 - 30; Sun., 11 a.m.; 7 p.m. nightly; Jack (Chuck) Provine, speaker; Wilton Neal, music.

► **Cash Church, Scott County:** Revival, July 27 - 30; Sun., 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Justin Chaney, speaker; Mark Spence, music; Jim Savell, pastor.

► **Ted Church, Ted Community:** Revival, July 27 - 30; Sun., 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Danny Dickerson, speaker; James Shumaker, pastor.

► **McAdams Church, McAdams:** Revival, July 27 - 30; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Charles McBride, Ladell Blanton, Junior Davis, Gene Richardson, and Derrick Wilson, speakers.

► **East Salem Church, Leakesville:** 100th anniversary, July 27, 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.; Mickey McLendon, pastor.

► **County Line Church, Carthage:** Homecoming, July 27; services, 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch and singing; James Burrell, speaker; The Johnsons, music.



PINEVIEW CHURCH, LAUREL: Homecoming, July 13; shown are Mike Walters, pianist; Chris Hodge, guest speaker; pastor Tim Nelson; and Scarlett Sanders, minister of music.

BIBL i O C I P H E R

TVHH K HVLZ ULKU VZ FAY CLUYEF,

TAYZ AY AKFA ZL OUYX? TVHH K XL-

RZB HVLZ MUX LRF LC AVE QYZ, VC AY

AKPY FKDYZ ZLFAVZB?

KGLE FAUYY: CLRU

Clue: C = F

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Matthew 26:52

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Radical Faith: Draw the Line • Daniel 1:3-5, 8-10, 12-15, 17-19

Good news, bad news! Actually it's all bad news. The Babylonians defeated the nation of Judah and chose their best and brightest young adults to be taken to Babylon as slaves. This occurred in 609 BC when Nebuchadnezzar defeated King Jehoiakim of Judah. Imagine being one of those considered bright enough and smart enough to become slaves in a foreign country and culture. Would you feel complimented or defeated? If you were left behind, would you be glad to be rejected or would you be ashamed? Would it be good news if you were taken or left behind? Neither.

You've heard of some of those who were taken captive. Daniel 1:6 reads, "Now among these were... Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah," (KJV). The name Daniel meant "God is my judge." The Babylonians, however, changed his name to elteshazzar which meant "Bel's Prince." Bel was a Babylonian god. Hananiah meant "Beloved of The Lord," though he was renamed Shadrach, which meant, "illuminated by the Sun-god." Mishael meant "Who is like God," though he was renamed Meshach, which was the name of a goddess like Venus. Finally, Azariah meant "The Lord is my help." His name was changed to Abednego, which meant "The servant of Nego," another false god.

I challenge you to learn the three Hebrew names in honor of their meanings, or Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, though they are better known by their Babylonian names of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. "Beloved of the Lord," "The Lord is my help," and "Who is like God?" is far better than the Babylonian meaning.

Though these four Hebrew boys had no choice about serving the Babylonians, they had a choice about keeping their character even though their names were changed to reflect the Babylonian religion. Immediately they took a stand for what they believed and what they had been taught. Daniel 1:8 reads, "Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself," (KJV).

God had caused Daniel to find favor

in the eyes of the one administrating the Kings wishes, so Daniel proposed a test to him. For ten days Daniel and the other three Hebrews would obey the Hebrew dietary guidelines, and they would then be compared with the rest eating the Kings diet. The outcome was amazing. Daniel 1:14-15 reveals, "So he consented to them

in this matter, and proved them ten days. And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in

Explore the Bible with Rick Henson



flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat," (KJV).

Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah prospered in their new positions. God gave them favor with everyone in leadership positions and even eventually with King Nebuchadnezzar himself. The Babylonians changed their names but could not change their character.

You may work, go to school, or live around people who do not know or serve

your Lord. You may not have a choice about your surroundings, coworker, or family members, but you always have a choice about who you are and how you will serve the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Himself prayed for you concerning this in John 17:14-15, "I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil," (KJV). He did not ask the Lord to take you out of your situation but instead to use you there.

We can learn from these Hebrew boys who were taken from their homes and made slaves. They were previously slaves to the Lord and continued to serve Him in their new situation. Romans 12:2 teaches, "And be not conformed to this world," (KJV). This word conformed comes from the Greek word from which our word schematic is derived. In other words, don't let the world's plan guide your life. Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah followed God's pattern in a much worse situation and The Lord blessed them. Be faithful to God and see what He can do through you.

Henson is pastor of Oakdale Church, Brandon.

Enduring Faith • 1 Peter 2:13-23

Peter, along with the Apostle Paul, faced many challenging circumstances (2 Cor. 11:24-31). Neither man demanded his rights. Instead they set an example of submission and slavery to Christ. The focus of Philippians is to rejoice always even in the midst of suffering. The focus of 2 Timothy is expect to suffer. Suffering and submission are the themes of 1 Peter 2:13-23. It is during this time of hardship, dealing with persecution and discrimination for their faith, Peter encourages the letter's recipients to do the following: do good and not evil, submit to earthly authorities, and remember the example of Jesus. Trusting God in every circumstance is our lesson's thrust.

In our culture the word 'submit' is at the bottom of the list and at the top are the words 'my rights'. 'Submit' is a military term meaning "to arrange in military fashion under the commander," "to put oneself in an attitude of submission." As citizens in the world and under civil law and authority, God's people are to live in a humble, submissive way in the midst of any hostile, godless, slandering society for the Lord's sake" (John MacArthur Study Bible). Submission is simply the recognition of God's authority in our lives and herein we find our freedom. "It is our responsibility to 'advertise God's

virtues" (1 Peter 2:9, author's translation). This is especially true when it comes to our relationship to government and people in authority" (Warren Wiersbe, Be Hopeful, pg. 58). We are to be model citizens, yet the laws of the land must never make us violate our conscience or disobey God's Word. But we are to do what is good and right because we have first submitted to Christ, no matter what the situation is. This is trust—not

in government but in God!

Next, in verses 18-20, Peter addresses submission to those who were Christian slaves in

the congregations scattered throughout the region. They thought this meant they had gained their personal and political freedom as well; thereby creating problems in the churches and for the individuals. Today, we do not have Christian slaves; but we do have employers. Wherever you find yourself in the marketplace an employee is not to take advantage of his employer, but do an honest

day's work, be respectable, and some days you have to "take it" when you know you are not in the wrong. On my desk at work is a 3" x 5" notecard with the following: God doesn't need your help. He only asks you to trust Him—Proverbs 3:5-6. It is a reminder that whatever I may be facing God is not asking me to manipulate or control the circumstances, nor is He asking me to demand my rights. He is simply asking repeatedly, "Will

you trust me and the Sufficiency of Christ?" Forgiveness, love, and knowing His mercies are new every morning show us

Bible Studies for Life with Laura Leathers



how patient He is as we learn more about trusting Him. It is a moment by moment choice. We are to let God fight our battles (Rom. 12:16-21) and our work is to be done unto the Lord (Col. 3:23). This is where we find favor with God (see Neh. 2:8) and bring Him glory. Life guarantees hardships will come and our attitude in these reflects our faithfulness to God.

"For to this you were called, because Christ suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow," Peter writes in verse 21. I believe verse 23 is the key to suffering. The Jeremiah Study Bible gives a brief summary of verse 23: "Christ is the example for everything in life—including the reality of suffering and the Christian's response to it. He endured and did not retaliate verbally (revile or threaten) but did what was right and committed the results to the Lord, who judges righteously (Isa. 53:7-9; 2 Cor. 5:21)."

Enduring faith is moving forward, when everything within you wants to quit and there are no answers to the suffering you are experiencing. It is resting with confidence knowing the Master will fulfill His promises. It is holding tightly to the sovereign, holy, infinitely wise, forever faithful and always loving God. It is a choice we must make. God is in every detail of your life. Open your hymnal to Trust and Obey, and prayerfully commit to "... Trust and obey, for there's no other way. To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey" (Text by John H. Sammis).

Leathers is a member of First Church, Madison.

SENATE

cont. from p. 1

Russell D. Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville, said he was "shocked that this many votes could be cast in the United States Senate against basic religious liberty for persons in the marketplace."

Casey Mattox, senior counsel of Alliance Defending Freedom, told Baptist Press in a written statement, "The fact that 56 senators voted to invoke cloture on this bill serves as a grim reminder to all Americans that our religious liberty cannot be taken for granted."

The bill — the Protect Women's Health From Corporate Interference Act, S. 2578 — would bar any federal law, including

the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA), from exempting an employer from abiding by the Obama administration's abortion/contraception mandate or any other rule by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

The mandate issued by the HHS is part of the enforcement of the 2010 health care reform law known as Obamacare, and requires employers

to provide for their workers drugs and devices that can potentially cause abortions.

In its June 30 decision, the 5-4 Supreme Court majority relied on RFRA in ruling for the religious liberty rights of Hobby Lobby and other family owned for-profit businesses that conscientiously object to the mandate to pay for abortifacients.

All Democrats voted to invoke cloture. The three Re-

publicans who sided with the Democrats were Susan Collins of Maine, Mark Kirk of Illinois, and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska. Mississippi Republican Senators Thad Cochran and Roger Wicker voted against invoking cloture.

Seven of the Senate Democrats who voted essentially to undermine RFRA cast votes for the religious liberty law as senators in 1993.

Just for the Record



OAK HILL CHURCH, MERIDIAN, recently honored Jacque Smith for her 50 years of service as church accompanist. Shown are Smith and pastor Mike Russell.



COUNTY LINE CHURCH, OVETT, held a deacon ordination July 13. Shown are pastor Matthew Martin; Billy Sanders and Joyce Sanders; Cindy Smith and Goodwin Smith.



CHILDREN FROM FIRST CHURCH, VICKSBURG, attended CentriKid at Timber Creek Camp, Pulaski, June 16 - 20. Margie Heltzel, children's coordinator; Ashton Thompson, executive pastor.

In other Church News:

► **Grace Fellowship Church, Lexington,** is showing God's Not Dead at the Multi-Purpose Complex in Lexington, July 31, 6:30 p.m., and at the church Aug. 1 - 2, 7:30 p.m.

► **First Church, Vicksburg,** surpassed its Annie Armstrong goal

of \$29,000 with a gift total of \$31,066.20. Kay Lee, WMU director; Ashton Thompson, minister of missions.

► **New Zion Church, Walthall County,** will present Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames July 27 - 29, 7 p.m.



Columbia Chapter #709, Woodmen of the World, presented **NEW HOPE CHURCH, FOX-WORTH,** with an American flag. Shown are pastor Tim Parker, Tommy Mullins, Mike Patrick, Lawrence Dowdy, Jimmy Thomas, Darron Slocum, Howard Bennett, and Monroe Stewart.



Several students from **CENTER HILL CHURCH, HAMILTON,** attended Super Summer in July. Josh Funderburg, minister of music and students.

LIBERTY CHURCH, CARROLL COUNTY, honored fathers in attendance June 14. Shown is pastor Gary Tanner; C.D. Whitfield, oldest father present; Taylor Upchurch, youngest father, with daughter Regan; and Alvin Upchurch, father with most family members present.



DEUTERONOMY

A CHALLENGE FOR A NEW GENERATION

JANUARY BIBLE STUDY PREVIEW CLINIC

SEPTEMBER 8, 2014

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**MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD,
JACKSON**

REGISTRATION: 8:30 - 9 a.m.

PREVIEW STUDY: 9 a.m. - noon

Dr. Wayne VanHorn has served as pastor or interim pastor in Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana. He has taught at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, William Carey University, and currently teaches at Mississippi College, where he also serves as Dean of the School of Christian Studies and the Arts. Dr. VanHorn and his wife Toni have three children and four grandchildren. His major discipline of study is in Hebrew and the Old Testament.

REGISTER BY AUGUST 25

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